

## My CareerHub advert

### SERT or individual student placements with academic staff

#### Placement opportunity title

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| <b>Staff name(s):</b>   | Amanda Korstjens                                  |
| <b>Project title:</b>   | Human-wildlife interactions in Sumatra, Indonesia |
| <b>Project location:</b>  | Sumatra, Indonesia                                |
| <b>Project start/end time(month):</b>                             | End July 2018                                     |
| <b>Placement length (how many days/weeks will this count as):</b> | 2 weeks   |
| <b>Number of student places available</b>                         | 14  |

#### Project description

This SERT will involve a 2-week trip to Indonesia to support LEAP: Landscape Ecology and Primatology research on interactions between humans and wildlife in Indonesia and to provide important training in conservation research. We will talk with collaborators from conservation organisations that are involved in mitigation strategies in human-wildlife conflict and illegal activities and the students will have the opportunity to speak with local farmers and conservationists about the frequency of these interactions, their perception of wildlife and the forests in relation to their own livelihoods, and the activities that the local people are engaged with.

Students will receive training in questionnaire techniques, survey methods, primate and elephant sampling methods for understanding habitat use and population densities, and we could opt for a training session on how to use drones for habitat monitoring using LEAP's drone in Indonesia. For information on the work we do in Indonesia and blog posts from the 2017 SERT students to Tanzania and the 2016 student trip to Indonesia, please visit: <https://go-leap.wixsite.com/home>.

You will get the chance to experience a different culture from visiting villages, speaking with local conservationists and working alongside Indonesian students. You will also receive advice and training in how to behave, stay safe, and conduct field work in a tropical rainforest from experienced field workers. This placement will be led by Amanda Korstjens (or an equally experienced BU staff member if unforeseen circumstances prohibit Amanda

from joining) with 2-3 BU Postgraduate Research Students as co-leaders. Locally, the activity is supported by two charities, FKL and SOCP that provide additional support.

We would also encourage the students to run a fund-raising campaign for the local charities that we work with: Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP: <http://www.sumatranorangutan.org/>), Orangutan Coffee (<http://orang-utan-coffee.com/>); and the wildlife protection work by Rudi Putra (<http://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/rudi-putra/>) from HAKA (<http://www.haka.or.id/>) our Indonesian collaborator on the elephant project (<http://leonardodicaprio.org/sanctuary-in-aceh-indonesia/>).

## **Background**

Indonesia's forests are disappearing fast and the current fragmented landscape is forcing forest animals into plantations and villages. As a result there has been a dramatic increase in human-wildlife conflict. LEAP research is focused on monitoring the changes occurring in the landscape, monitoring animal responses to these changes (focusing on primates and elephants), and investigating the impact that the increased human-wildlife conflict is having on humans and animals around the South-Eastern region of the Leuser National Park.

## **Suitable degree courses**

BSc Biological Sciences, BSc Ecology and Wildlife Conservation, any of the Anthropology degrees,

We are also keen to welcome students from a relevant media or tourism degree (activities can be adapted to suit students from these degrees and this has worked out excellently in the past)

MSc Biodiversity Conversation, MSc Biological Anthropology

## **Skills required**

We do not require any skills other than enthusiasm for field work and you must be able to deal with primitive conditions as we may be camping at the field station depending on group size and you will be out in the wet hot tropical forest almost every day. Please contact us if you have any concerns or special requirements as we are likely able to adapt some of the activities according to individual requirements or wishes.

## **How to apply or find out more information**

Please send your CV and cover letter to Amanda Korstjens  
[akorstjens@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:akorstjens@bournemouth.ac.uk)

Deadline for application is the **31<sup>st</sup> January**